

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preventing and treating gastrointestinal disease by means of administration of an effective amount of an antagonist or partial agonist of 5HT_{1a} receptors.

2. A method according to claim 1 employing an effective amount of the racemic substance RS pindolol or a salt thereof.

3. A method according to claim 1 employing an effective amount of one of the enantiomers, S (-) pindolol of claim 2 or a salt thereof.

4. A method according to claim 1 in which effective amounts of RS-pindolol or S(-) pindolol or their salts are administered in a pharmaceutical dosage form that permits rapid release of the active substances.

5. A method according to claim 1 in which effective amounts of RS pindolol or S(-) pindolol or their salts are administered in a pharmaceutical dosage form that releases the active substances in a slow or controlled fashion that in turn permits administration of the active substances at lesser frequency than in claim 4.

6. A method according to claim 1 in which the gastrointestinal diseases are characterised as non-ulcerative dyspepsia or irritable bowel syndrome or chemotherapy-associated disorders of motility, including nausea.